WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, and the like, which is prohibited by law from being printed.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the

judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the information indicating the judgment object image.

5   6.   The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined area is an area necessary for judgment of the judgment object image.

       7.   The image processing apparatus according to
10   claim 1, wherein when said output requested image is judged for said each predetermined distance, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

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       8.   The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, the determination means determines a minimum distance among the predetermined
20   distances for said plurality of judgment object images as the predetermined distance.

       9.   The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance is
25   determined also by considering that said judgment object image rotates.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is judged as a result of said judgment that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of the output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

11. An image processing method comprising steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image.

12. A storage medium which stores a program for executing steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image.

13. An image processing apparatus comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information

5   indicating a judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image.

10   14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, and the like, which is prohibited by law from being printed.

15   15. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

20   16. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

17. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the information indicating the

25   judgment object image is periodically embedded in the judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an

area including at least one piece of the information
indicating that the output requested image is said
judgment object image.

5   18.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 13, wherein said predetermined area is an area
necessary for judgment of said judgment object image.

       19.   The image processing apparatus according to
10   claim 13, wherein when said output requested image is
judged for the each predetermined distance, the
predetermined distance is determined in such a manner
that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in
the judgment object image.

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       20.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 13, wherein when there are a plurality of
judgment object images, the determination means
determines a minimum distance among the predetermined
20   distances for the plurality of judgment object images
as the predetermined distance.

       21.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 13, wherein said predetermined distance is
25   determined also by considering that the judgment object
image rotates.

22. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

23. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a width of the band can be changed in the output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of said band.

24. The image processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said band width is set by judging whether said predetermined area does not overlap the band boundary.

25. The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when it is judged as a result of said judgment that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of the output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

26. An image processing method comprising steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

5   determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image.

27. A storage medium which stores a program for
10   executing steps of:
judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

15   determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image.

28. An image processing apparatus comprising:
20   judgment means for judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and
judgment means for, when as a result of judgment by said judgment means the drawing data is said image data, judging whether or not the image data includes
25   information indicating a judgment object image.

29. The image processing apparatus according to

claim 28, wherein said judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities, and the like, which is prohibited by law from being printed.

5   30. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible digital watermark.

10   31. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

      32. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one piece of the information indicating the judgment object image.

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      33. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein when said image data comprises an image with a small number of colors, said judgment means does not perform the judgment.

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      34. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein when as the result of the judgment by

said judgment means the drawing data is not the image
data, said judgment means does not perform the
judgment.

5   35.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 28, wherein when it is judged as said judgment
result that the judgment object image is included, any
one of a processing of discontinuing output of said
output requested image, a processing of changing the
10   output requested image to another image and outputting
the image, and a processing of informing that the
output is impossible is performed.

       36.   The image processing apparatus according to
15   claim 28, wherein said judgment is performed for each
predetermined area of the image data, and the
predetermined area is determined for each predetermined
distance of the image data.

20   37.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 36, wherein when the image data is judged for the
each predetermined area, the predetermined distance is
determined in such a manner that the predetermined area
is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

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       38.   The image processing apparatus according to
claim 36, wherein when there are a plurality of

judgment object images, a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object images is determined as the predetermined distance.

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39. The image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object image rotates.

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40. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said image data is judged for each band, and the band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

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41. The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said image data is judged for each band, a width of the band can be changed in the output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

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42. The image processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said band width is set by judging whether the predetermined area does not overlap the band boundary.

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43.   The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said judgment is performed after the image data constituting the band is synthesized.

5   44.   The image processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein when said synthesized image data is smaller than the judgment object image, said judgment is not performed.

10   45.   An image processing method comprising steps of:
       judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and
       when as a result of judgment the drawing data is
15   said image data, judging whether or not said image data includes information indicating a judgment object image.

46.   A storage medium which stores a program for
20   executing steps of:
       judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and
       when as a result of judgment the drawing data is said image data, judging whether or not said image data
25   includes information indicating a judgment object image.